Proxy for Sen Gallus
Monday April 23°d 2007

Free Conf. Committee on #8462

Any motions w/ Sen Williams

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60th Legislature

Free Conference Committee on House Bill No. 462

April 23, 2007

Legislative Council P.O. Box 201706 Helena, MT 59620-1706

Dear Members of the Legislative Council,

We, the undersigned members of the Free Conference Committee on House Bill No. 462, a bill to regulate constituent services accounts, respectfully request that the Legislative Council assign an appropriate 2007-2008 interim committee or direct sufficient staff resources to examine not only funding of expenses to fulfill the obligations of public office, but also the broader policy issues involving ethics laws and the standards of conduct for public officials.

While deliberating HB 462, we reached a consensus that the objectives of such an interim study would be to: (1) provide a forum for further discussion and examination of concerns; (2) highlight areas of Montana's current law that should be clarified or revised; (3) identify how other states are addressing these issues; and (4) determine policy options that may be considered by the 61st Legislature. We also noted lingering concerns about the administration and enforcement of any new law in this area and concluded that an interim study would help define the problems and facilitate the development of viable bipartisan solutions.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Best wishes for a productive 2007-2008 interim.

Sincerely,

Senator Carol Williams

(D - Missoula)

Senator Roy Brown

(R - Billings)

Senator Steve Gallus

(D - Butte)

Representative John Sinrud

(℟ - Bozeman)

Representative Diane Sands

(D - Missoula)

Representative John Ward

∕(R - Helena)